

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 817, which supports the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence issues and support programs designed to end domestic violence.

Twenty-two years ago, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed and since 1989 legislation designating October as National Violence Awareness Month has passed every year. Domestic violence affects people of every age, race, ethnicity, religion, and gender. Women are most disproportionately affected and nearly one in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Every single day in the United States, more than three women are murdered by their significant other. Young women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence. Every year, over 15 million children are exposed to domestic violence and these children are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs, attempt suicide, and become involved in teenage prostitution. These statistics are sobering.

In a struggling economy, domestic violence programs are needed more than ever. Earlier this year marked the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Violence Against Women Act; however, more work must be done to protect victims of domestic violence. In my home State of California, cuts in state financing have led to elimination of funding for shelter services. This has translated to cuts in services and fewer victims being served. Ultimately, this sends a message that victims of domestic abuse are not a priority to our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

HONORING OLGA MURRAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Olga Murray of Sausalito, California, for her commitment to helping destitute children in one of the poorest countries of the world. In 1984, at the age of 60, Ms. Murray founded the Nepal Youth Opportunity Foundation, NYOF, which assists thousands of children through programs operated by the Nepalese themselves.

The mission of NYOF, which arose from Murray's vision, is to "transform the lives of impoverished Nepalese children by providing them with what should be every child's birthright—education, housing, medical care, and loving support." Inspired by these compelling words, NYOF's programs include homes for neglected and abandoned children, education programs and scholarships from grade school through graduate school, and even random acts of kindness.

But Murray may be best known for her innovative Indentured Daughters program which frees young girls from servitude. Among Tharu farmers, families in poverty sell their girls as young as 6 years old to serve in bondage to higher-caste families around the country where they perform menial labor under difficult conditions and are sometimes beaten and forced into prostitution. Often, the parents believe their daughters will actually be better off. Although the practice is now illegal, the prohibition is not enforced.

Murray's solution is to offer the parents a pig or goat in exchange for not selling their daughters as the animal is worth more if bred or butchered. She also pays the daughters' \$100 per year school expenses and has funded construction of 36 classrooms to accommodate them. Murray has saved thousands of young girls this way and inspired Nepalese charities to follow her lead in saving even more.

Murray is a prodigious fundraiser for NYOF, recognized as one of the most effective organizations of its kind. However, it is her personal passion and loving joy for her work and the people of Nepal that are the secret of her success. She has received numerous prestigious awards including Unsung Heroes of Compassion from the Dalai Lama, a medal from the King of Nepal, the Mannington Stand on a Better World Award, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society Frank Brennan Award for Outstanding Service to the Poor.

Madam Speaker, I admire Ms. Murray's commitment to creating opportunities for the children of Nepal. The children of the world are our future, and we can be inspired by people like Olga to make this world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER DOROTHY ANN KELLY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, OSU, whose extraordinary life of service as an educational leader and visionary, a champion for social justice and interfaith understanding, and a mentor to thousands of women and men will be celebrated by the Alumnae/i Association of the College of New Rochelle on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

Sister Dorothy Ann, the 11th president of the College of New Rochelle, died suddenly

on March 27, 2009, ending her 60-year affiliation with the college, from which she had graduated in 1951. At the time of her death, she was in her 6th year as Provincial Prioress of the Eastern Province of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the order of Roman Catholic nuns that she had entered in 1952.

Sister Dorothy Ann started her 25-year tenure as CNR president in the early 1970s, at a time when many all-women's colleges across the country were foundering. She gave new life to CNR by establishing its School of New Resources to educate adult students on six branch campuses in urban New York City neighborhoods. A commuter student from the Bronx, who had attended CNR on a scholarship, Sister Dorothy Ann saw the School of New Resources as furthering the original mission of the college to make higher education more accessible to those who weren't being well served. Two other schools were also established at CNR during her presidency—the School of Nursing and the Graduate School—earning her the unofficial title as "second founder" of the college.

Her immeasurable talents as an effective, inspiring, tenacious and energetic leader soon brought her expanded roles in higher education. In 1978, she was named the first woman chair of the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities of the State of New York, and 9 years later, became the first woman chair of the National Association of Colleges and Universities.

Sister Dorothy Ann's influence and impact were also felt in other arenas, on the local, national and even international scene. In 1974, she became one of the first members of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Religious Council of New Rochelle, and maintained that association until her death. Shortly thereafter, convinced that the violence in northern Ireland had to be stopped, she not only hosted Nobel Peace Prize winners Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Betty Williams several times at the college, but also served as the first president of a New York-based group formed to finance the Northern Ireland Peace People. And in 1995, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton as a member of the official U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Her achievements and contributions to numerous organizations and causes won her wide recognition, with honors including induction into the Westchester County Women's Hall of Fame and honorary degrees from six U.S. colleges and universities. But far more meaningful and lasting are the heartfelt tributes from the thousands whose lives she touched—and improved—through her landmark efforts to expand educational opportunities and increase understanding among peoples of all faiths, races and cultural backgrounds. I urge you to join me in honoring Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly's remarkable legacy of service and commitment to making this a better world.

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